



Forest Service

Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

May 2017



Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Process Report

May 2017

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Identifying and Evaluating Rivers That May Be Suitable For Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System

This report summarizes the process to date that the Forest has completed for identifying and evaluating rivers that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System and determining whether to recommend any such rivers for wild and scenic river designation. The paper details the process used to date and next steps.

Introduction

The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are in the required¹ process of revising the forest plan. Part of the revision process includes determining eligibility of rivers that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (National System). A description of this process can be found in the 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule and Chapter 80 of the Forest Service Land Management Planning Handbook 1909.12. This process includes the following steps:

1. Determine eligibility.
2. Assigning potential classification (wild, scenic, or recreational).
3. Determining suitability.

Eligibility studies are completed with a finding that each river is eligible or not, and with each eligible river segment assigned a classification. A suitability study may begin following a determination of eligibility and classification, or may be deferred to a later time. The Forest has elected to defer any suitability studies.

Background

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) in 1968 to preserve select river's free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values. The most important provision of the WSRA is protecting rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. To protect free-flowing character, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (which licenses nonfederal hydropower projects) is not allowed to license construction of dams, water conduits, reservoirs, powerhouses, transmission lines, or other project works on or directly affecting wild and scenic rivers.

The WSRA also directs that each river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) be administered in a manner to protect and enhance a river's outstanding natural and cultural values. It allows existing uses of a river to continue and future uses to be considered, so long as existing or proposed use does not conflict with protecting river values. The WSRA also directs building partnerships among landowners, river users, tribal nations, and all levels of government.

Rivers may be identified for suitability study by an act of Congress under Section 5(a), or through federal agency-initiated study under Section 5(d) (1). Section 5(d) (1) directs federal

¹ National Forest Management Act of 1976

agencies to consider the potential of wild and scenic rivers in their planning processes, and its application has resulted in numerous individual river designations, and state and area-specific legislation.

Both Sections 5(a) and 5(d)(1) require determinations to be made regarding a river's eligibility, classification, and suitability. Eligibility and classification represent an inventory of existing conditions. Eligibility is an evaluation of whether a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable values. If found to be eligible, a river is analyzed as to its current level of development and a preliminary classification determination is made as to whether it should be placed into one of three classes—wild, scenic, or recreational.

The identification of a river as eligible through the Forest planning process does not trigger any protections under the WSRA. To manage the river for its potential inclusion into the National System, other authorities are cited to protect its free-flowing character, water quality, outstandingly remarkable values, and preliminary or recommended classification.

The final procedural step, a suitability study, provides the basis for determining whether to recommend a river as part of the National System. No suitability studies are being conducted with this Forest Plan revision. In this evaluation, only eligibility of rivers on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests was completed.

Suitability is deferred, pending:

- Public interest or support in wild and scenic river study, and
- Congress expresses interest in a specific river for Wild and Scenic River designation, or
- A proposed project that would alter the free-flowing character of a stream, such as by impoundment, or adversely affect outstandingly remarkable values, or the river's inventoried classification.

Analysis Area

When conducting an eligibility study of Forest Service identified rivers (sec. 5(d)(1) of the Act) during land management plan development or revision, the Interdisciplinary Team shall include all potential wild, scenic, and recreational rivers flowing wholly or partially on National Forest System lands as identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and by other sources. The rivers to be studied for eligibility include all rivers named on a standard U. S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map. On the Nantahala and Pisgah, this review included more than 1300 rivers (see methodology section, below).

Region of Comparison

The Land Management Planning Directives (Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Ch. 80) define the “Region of Comparison” for Wild and Scenic River evaluation as “the geographic area of consideration for each outstandingly remarkable value that will serve as the basis for meaningful

comparative analysis”. Additionally, the planning directives state that “the Interdisciplinary Team shall identify the “region of comparison” for each outstandingly remarkable value”.

Once the region(s) of comparison is (or are) identified, a river’s values can then be analyzed in comparison with other rivers in that region. A region of comparison should be large enough to encompass similar type rivers that provide a wide representation of river values so that rivers with outstandingly remarkable values can be identified.

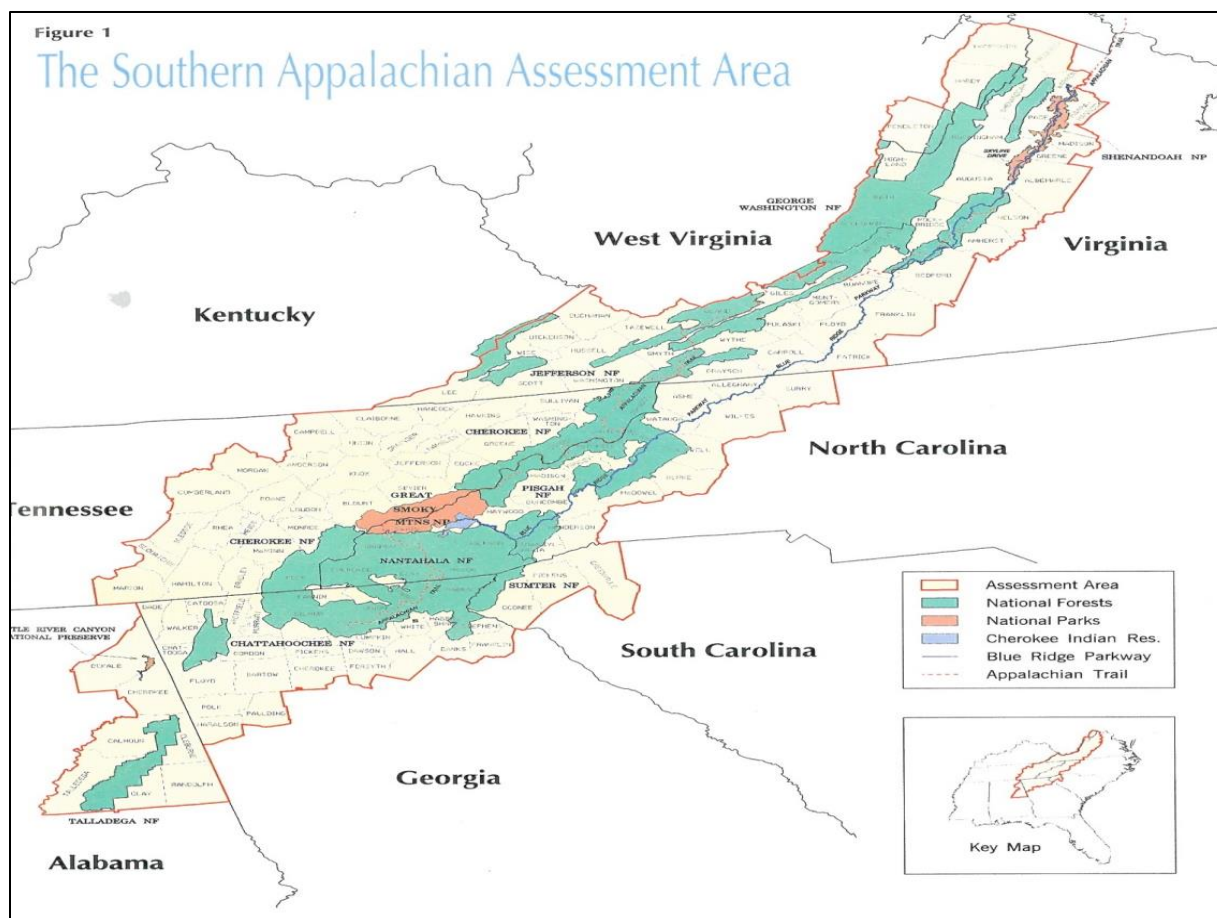
Finally, within the region of comparison the features or outstandingly remarkable values being considered need to be rare, unique or exemplary examples of the occurrence of that feature or value. For example, the mere presence of a threatened fish species may not be sufficient to warrant making a river eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System, but a stream that exhibits the highest quality habitat for that species might be considered eligible, especially if it is the only river in the regional context that exhibits such high quality habitat.

The Forest Planning Interdisciplinary Team has identified the region of comparison for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests as the Southern Appalachian Region (figure 1). This region is the same comparison area for all resources within the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests.

The Southern Appalachian region covers over 37 million acres of mountain, foothills, and valleys stretching from Virginia and eastern West Virginia to northwestern South Carolina, northern Georgia, and northern Alabama (figure 1). Forests cover 70 percent of the region, it contains more than 556,000 acres of flooded river and lake surface, and six congressionally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The eastern portion of the region is dominated by the Blue Ridge Mountains which rise abruptly from the Piedmont province forming a rugged and diverse landscape. The Blue Ridge Mountains range from nearly 2,000 feet to more than 6,000 feet and contain the highest peaks in the eastern United States. The variations in elevation, aspect, rocks, and soils produce sites that support a variety of vegetation from oak and hickory forests at lower elevations to the spruce and fir forests on the mountain tops.

The wide range of climatic conditions accounts for the occurrence of many plants and animals that are at the edge of their natural range. Additionally, there is a high diversity in the region as result of the unique geological, climatological, and hydrological features. High rainfall maintains year-long flows in an unusually dense network of streams and diversity of aquatic species is high, with a rich fauna of fish, salamanders, mollusks, crayfish, and aquatic insects. Nine major rivers that rise in the region provide water supplies for foothill communities and major cities of the Eastern and southeastern United States.



Source: The Southern Appalachian Assessment: Summary Report. July 1996. Prepared by Federal and State Agencies. Coordinated through Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Cooperative.

Methodology and Analysis Process

Inventory

The wild and scenic river study process requires determination to be made regarding a river's eligibility, classification, and suitability. Eligibility and classification represent an inventory of existing conditions. Eligibility is an evaluation of whether a river is free-flowing (without major dams, diversions or channel modifications) and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable values. These values should be a unique or exceptional representation for the area studied and must be related to the river or its immediate environment. To be considered an outstandingly remarkable value, the value must be rare, unique, or exemplary at the comparative scale of analysis.

The inventory of the named rivers and streams on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests was accomplished by using the current GIS databases for rivers and streams on the Forest and included all potential wild, scenic, and recreational rivers flowing wholly or partially on National Forest System lands as identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, public proposals and the all rivers named on a standard U. S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map.

The Forest then determined which of the named rivers and streams were free-flowing. This determination was made by answering the question, “Is the river segment flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway”? If the river segment was not free-flowing, then the river was not eligible.

The next step was to identify potential eligibility by determining which of the named rivers and streams that are free-flowing might have a potential “outstandingly remarkable value” (ORV). The potential ORVs were then compared at a region of comparison scale to determine if the identified potential values were rare, unique, or exemplary.

During May and June of 2015, all currently eligible rivers and all rivers named on a standard U. S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map, over 1300 in total, were reviewed by District personnel, Resource Specialists, and Interdisciplinary Team members. At this time, a broad and inclusive review of potential ORVs resulted in 53 rivers with the *potential* for eligibility. See Table 1.

River Name	Ranger District	Quad/Topo Name(s)
Elk River	Appalachian	Elk Park
Middle Creek	Appalachian	Celo
Roaring Creek	Appalachian	Carvers Gap
Rock Creek	Appalachian	Celo
South Toe River	Appalachian	Celo, Montreat, & Old Fort
Spring Creek	Appalachian	Hot Springs & Spring Creek
Waterfall Creek	Appalachian	Craggy Pinnacle
Santeetlah Creek	Cheoah	Big Junction & Santeetlah Creek
Cheoah River	Cheoah	Tapoco & Fontana Dam
Little Santeetlah Creek	Cheoah	Santeetlah Creek & Tapoco
Long Branch (or Long Creek)	Cheoah	Robbinsville
Sassafras Creek	Cheoah	Marble & Santeetlah Creek
Slickrock Creek	Cheoah	Tapoco & Whiteoak Flats
Harper Creek	Grandfather	Chestnut Mountain
Catawba River	Grandfather	Black Mountain & Moffitt Hill
Chestnut Branch	Grandfather	Moffitt Hill
Gragg Prong	Grandfather	Grandfather Mountain
Johns River	Grandfather	Collettsville & Globe
Lost Cove Creek	Grandfather	Newland
Big Choga Creek	Nantahala	Topton
Cullasaja River	Nantahala	Highlands & Scaly Mountain
East Fork Overflow Creek	Nantahala	Highlands
Frolictown Creek	Nantahala	Big Ridge
Gibby Branch	Nantahala	Topton
Greenland Creek	Nantahala	Big Ridge & Lake Toxaway
Jarrett Creek	Nantahala	Topton & Wayah Bald
Overflow Creek	Nantahala	Highlands & Satolah
Panthertown Creek	Nantahala	Big Ridge
Tanasee Creek	Nantahala	Lake Toxaway & Sam Knob
Tuckasegee River	Nantahala	Big Ridge & Lake Toxaway

Wayah Creek	Nantahala	Wayah Bald
West Fork Overflow Creek	Nantahala	Highlands & Scaly Mountain
Whitewater River	Nantahala & Pisgah	Cashiers
Big Creek	Pisgah	Dunsmore Mountain
Courthouse Creek	Pisgah	Sam Knob
East Fork Pigeon River	Pisgah	Cruso
Flat Laurel Creek	Pisgah	Sam Knob
Greasy Cove Prong	Pisgah	Shining Rock
Little East Fork Pigeon River	Pisgah	Sam Knob, Shining Rock, & Waynesville
Looking Glass Creek	Pisgah	Shining Rock
Middle Prong of Pigeon River	Pisgah	Sam Knob
North Fork French Broad River	Pisgah	Lake Toxaway, Rosman, & Sam Knob
Shining Creek	Pisgah	Shining Rock
Thompson River	Pisgah	Cashiers & Reid
West Fork Pigeon River	Pisgah	Sam Knob & Waynesville
Fires Creek	Tusquitee	Andrews, Hayesville, & Tipton
Beech Creek	Tusquitee	Hightower Bald
Britton Creek	Tusquitee	Robbinsville
Buck Creek	Tusquitee	Rainbow Springs & Shooting Creek
Chambers Creek	Tusquitee	Unaka
Hiwassee River	Tusquitee	Murphy
Little Buck Creek	Tusquitee	Rainbow Springs
Tallulah River	Tusquitee	Hightower Bald & Rainbow Springs

Eligibility

To be eligible for designation, a river must be free-flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable value. Thus, the eligibility analysis consisted of an examination of the river's hydrology, including any man-made alterations, and an assessment of its natural, cultural and recreational resources.

In order to be assessed as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Dictionary definitions of the words "unique" and "rare" indicate that such a value would be one that is a conspicuous example from among a number of similar values that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary. Only one such value is needed for eligibility.

While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river-related. That is, they should:

- Be located in the river or on its immediate shore-lands (generally within 1/4 mile on either side of the river);
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
- Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests plan revision team has developed an evaluation form to address each of the outstandingly remarkable value headings in consistent way. See Appendix A.

From late October to mid-December 2015, we asked for input on these potentially eligible rivers. We also asked the public to provide information on any additional rivers with a potential outstandingly remarkable values as well as currently eligible rivers.

Using the region of comparison, we then reviewed the identified potential outstandingly remarkable value(s) and determined whether they meet the criteria of being unique, rare, or exemplary feature and meets other criteria for being directly river-related (as described above) to be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Classification

Rivers found to be eligible, must be assigned a river classification. The potential classification of a river found to be eligible is based on the condition of the river and the adjacent lands as they currently exist. Section 2(b) of the WSRA (1968) specifies and defines these terms as follows:

- **Wild Rivers:** Rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- **Scenic Rivers:** Rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- **Recreational Rivers:** Rivers or sections of rivers readily accessible by roads or railroad, which may have some development along their shoreline and which may have undergone some impoundments or diversions in the past.

The evaluation forms previously developed were used to define the river segments being reviewed; discuss the potentially outstandingly remarkable values; document eligibility (or not) and associated river classification for the rivers found to be eligible.

See Appendix B for a description of the narratives for the newly eligible wild and scenic rivers.

Appendix A – Wild and Scenic River Evaluation Form

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

River Name: _____

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment:

From:

To:

Evaluated By: (optional)

Date:

Evaluation Step

NO

YES

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐
☐

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**
☐ ☐

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Appendix B – Completed WSR Evaluation Forms

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Rivers Reviewed and Moved Forward as Newly Eligible:

This report contains the evaluation summaries that the Forest has completed for identifying and evaluating rivers that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System and determining whether to recommend any such rivers for wild and scenic river designation. Further information regarding the river review process can be found in the Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report. Additional information regarding individual river evaluations, including public comments, is contained in the project record.

The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are in the required process of revising the forest plan. Part of the revision process includes determining eligibility of rivers that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. A description of this process can be found in the 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule and Chapter 80 of the Forest Service Land Management Planning Handbook 1909.12. This process includes the following steps:

1. Determining eligibility;
2. Assigning potential classification (wild, scenic, or recreational);
3. Determining suitability – deferred.

Eligibility studies are completed with a finding that each river is eligible as a Wild and Scenic River or not, and with each eligible river segment assigned a classification. A suitability study may begin following a determination of eligibility and classification, or may be deferred to a later time. The Forest has elected to defer any suitability studies.

This document contains the evaluation reports for 54 rivers reviewed in detail. The first section of the document contains the evaluation forms for the rivers determined to have Outstandingly Remarkable Values at the Region of Comparison and therefore, eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Forest Planning Interdisciplinary Team has identified the region of comparison for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests as the Southern Appalachian Region.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

CULLASAJA RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Highlands and Scaly Mountain quads

From: FS property line at Lake Sequoyah Dam (Highlands quad)

To: FS property line (Scaly Mountain quad)

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO YES

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ XX

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

The river gorge has a number of private in-holdings along the river, residences, and commercial businesses off HWY 64.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Bordered by the Scenic Byway of Highway 64 the Cullasaja offers outstanding views of a steep mountain stream laced with waterfalls. US 64 roughly parallels the river and has been designated a USFS Scenic Byway. There are developed access sites to Bridle Vail, Dry, and Quarry Falls to view the scenic/geologic features.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The Upper Cullasaja has some short sections of extreme rapids for experienced kayakers; however, the gorge has limited access and egress along highway 64 between Highlands and Franklin, NC. Dry Falls and Cullasaja Falls are beautiful scenic falls for viewing but they are extremely dangerous for boating. Other recreational values of the Cullasaja include hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, and sight-seeing. The river is a NC Class B trout stream.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

The gorge has been recognized as geologically unique in the Southern Blue Ridge. The geology of the run produces many waterfalls that are within an easy walking distance from the road providing spectacular views as well as many secluded and beautiful swimming holes. The Cullasaja Gorge has three well-known waterfalls and the unique geological setting provides visitors access to numerous large waterfalls and cascades.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports salamander and darter species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. The darters are found below gorge off Forest Service property by Franklin.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The gorge has been recognized as botanically diverse and geologically unique in the Southern Blue Ridge. There is one gametophytic fern found at Dry Falls which is the only example found in the United States.

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
XX**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

There are two historical Civilian Conservation Corps built recreation areas associated with Cullasaja Gorge and the river. These areas are eligible as a National Register Historic Recreation Area.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources, and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

Conclusion:

Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Vegetation, Historical/Cultural ORVs.

From the Forest Service property line at Lake Sequoyah Dam to the Forest Service property line below Buck Creek on the Scaley Mountain quad (7.76 miles).

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

☐ Scenic

XX Recreational

Rationale

Recreation classification due to proximity of Hwy 64 (7.76 miles).

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

FIRES CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Andrews, Hayesville, and Topton quads

From: Headwaters

To: Forest Service property line in Hayesville quad

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Scenery along Fires Creek and throughout the Fires Creek watershed is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. Fires Creek has a modest sized floodplain that supports a riparian forest vegetation community, including dense thickets of *Rhododendron maximum*. This forest type limits the field of view for persons engaged in recreation near the main stem of the creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary river-related recreational opportunities associated with Fires Creek include recreational fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. None of these opportunities are considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Hunting opportunities consist primarily of turkey and deer hunting within the watershed, generally by people local to the Clay County and Cherokee County vicinities.

Fires Creek does not offer unique, rare, or exemplary boating opportunities. Some visitors attempt tubing during times of higher water in spring, but cool water temperatures and shallow water limit this activity. There are many other areas across the Cheoah and Tusquitee Ranger District, and the neighboring Nantahala Ranger District and Cherokee National Forest, that offer better and more widely utilized water-based recreation opportunities including the Chattooga River, Nantahala River, and Ocoee River. Additionally, there are a variety of motor-boating opportunities provided at Lake Chatuge, Fontana Lake, Hiwassee Lake, and Appalachia Lake. Additionally, Fires Creek has little potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and is not considered a destination location for these types of activities.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

The number and magnitude of waterfalls/cascades on Fires Creek are not unique when compared to similar streams within the Southern Appalachians. The geologic features of Fires Creek are common to other Southern Appalachian streams.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

Fires Creek provides a range of high quality habitat for aquatic species. Although Fires Creek supports high aquatic diversity, it is lacking some species such as brook trout that are found in other streams throughout the Southern Appalachian region.

The lower elevations/lower reaches provide habitat for two aquatic species of conservation concern, hellbenders and Smoky Dace. These species have broad distribution and occur in multiple locations across the Southern Appalachians. However, the lower reaches of Fires Creek support one of the best populations of hellbenders within the species' range including excellent hellbender habitat for all life stages---from nesting to larval to sub-adult to adulthood.

Fires Creek also supports an additional aquatic species of conservation concern, Hiwassee headwaters crayfish; however it is limited in distribution within the Fires Creek.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

Fires Creek supports a wildlife community that is considered typical for riparian zones and mid-elevation valleys in the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. Portions of the floodplain and surrounding uplands have been surveyed and evaluated for effects to wildlife resources for recent projects in the watershed.

The Fires Creek area supports two federally-listed wildlife species, the Indiana bat (endangered) and the northern long-eared bat (threatened), and one species of conservation concern, the Eastern Small-footed bat. However, the presence of these species is not outstanding within the region of comparison and the distribution of these species overlaps throughout the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Two plant species of conservation concerns, *Megaceros aenigmaticus*, a hornwort, and *Cardamine clematitis*, mountain bittercress, occur within the mesic habitats associated with the streams and creeks, however, larger and higher quality populations of the two species occur within Santeetlah Creek and across the Great Smoky Mountains National Park drainages for the hornwort and within numerous drainages across Roan Mountain for the bittersweet.

A population of mountain Camellia (*Stewartia ovata*) occurs along Fires Creek; however, larger populations of this species of conservation concern shrub are present in drainages across southwestern Virginia and northern Georgia in the southern Appalachians.

There are no rare plant communities present in Fires Creek watershed. The area is dominated by acidic cove forest and mesic oak at mid elevations and high elevation red oak forest at higher elevations. None of these common forests are exemplary for the southern Appalachians.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The river corridor contains known pre-historic sites and one tribal ceremonial location. However, most areas within the geographic region of comparison have higher concentration of sites within the river corridor

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS**

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

Fish (aquatics) ORV for Hellbenders population and habitat.

The eligible river segment is from the confluence of Bee Branch with Fires Creek downstream to the FS boundary just downstream of the Fires Creek Picnic Area – 2.6 miles.

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

☐ Scenic

XX Recreational

Rationale:

The eligible river segment contains a parallel road as well as a bridge crossing. Additionally, the segment contains development near the river including a parking lots, restrooms, a developed camping area, and picnic area.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

FLAT LAUREL CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Sam Knob quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence of West Fork of the Pigeon River

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Recreation activities include hiking and fishing. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they have the potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and is not considered a destination location for these types of activities. Additionally, higher quality recreation experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports the flying squirrel; however, the population does not owe its existence to the river.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Contains one of the best Rock Gnome lichen (endangered) populations in the region.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

Vegetation ORV.

2 classifications for a total of 1.69 miles:

1. Recreation classification from headwaters for 0.25 miles from Hwy 215 (proximity to Hwy 215).
2. Scenic classification from 0.25 miles from Hwy 215 to confluence with West Fork of the Pigeon River due to overlap with this river.

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

XX Scenic

XX Recreational

Rationale:

2 classifications for a total of 1.69 miles:

3. Recreation classification from headwaters for 0.25 miles from Hwy 215 (proximity to Hwy 215).
4. Scenic classification from 0.25 miles from Hwy 215 to confluence with West Fork of the Pigeon River due to overlap with this river.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

OVERFLOW CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Highlands and Satolah quads

From: Confluence with East and West Forks of Overflow Creek (Highlands quad)

To: NC/GA state line (Satolah quad)

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

While similar to others in the region of comparison; there are numerous opportunities in the general area making the scenery unique. Including a diversity of waterfalls and rapids with Glen Falls in the upper headwaters.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Recreation activities include dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing. The river section in North Carolina provides backcountry fishing; however, these recreational opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context. Additionally, comparable hiking, fishing, and paddling experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

Scenery ORV.

The eligible river segment is from the confluence with East and West Forks of Overflow Creek to the NC/GA state line (0.98 miles).

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

XX Scenic

☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Scenic classification due to some evidence of human activity.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

SANTEETLAH CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Big Junction and Santeetlah quads

From: Headwaters (Santeetlah quad)

To: Confluence of Johns Branch in Big Junction quad

Evaluated By: Cheoah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Santeetlah Creek recently contained a fish barrier; however, the fish barrier removal project was completed on May 27, 2016.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Scenery along Santeetlah Creek and throughout the Santeetlah Creek watershed is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. Santeetlah Creek has a moderately sized floodplain that supports a riparian forest vegetation community, including dense thickets of *Rhododendron maximum*. This forest type limits the field of view for persons engaged in recreation at many locations near the main stem of the creek. Additionally, the Eastern Hemlock forest has been extensively damaged in the drainage with the majority dead. This provides a visual background of less visually pleasing large dead trees across the drainage.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Santeetlah Creek provides a variety of recreation opportunities such as dispersed camping, fishing, hunting, and recreational boating (kayaking). However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Additionally, Santeetlah Creek has very little potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and is not considered a “destination location” for these types of activities.

Recreational fishing does occur on Santeetlah Creek, but there are many other mountain creeks that offer similar recreational fishing opportunities. Thick vegetation, narrow stream width, steep topography, fallen logs, and overhanging branches make recreational fishing within most of the proposed river corridor difficult. Therefore, nearby better fishing opportunities are available in the vicinity of the Rattler Ford Campground. Additionally, fishing harvest success depends primarily on stocking efforts that occur during a short timeframe in the early summer season.

Boating opportunities on Santeetlah Creek consist primarily of creek boating (kayaking). While considered to be exceptional by a small group of highly skilled whitewater enthusiasts, it is very rare to see visitors boating on Santeetlah Creek. Boating is primarily associated with periods of high water events due to increased rainfall. In the entire region of comparison, there are other kayaking opportunities much closer to large population centers that do attract visitors from within and beyond the region of comparison, such as the Chattooga River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and the Ocoee River. Due to the limited access to the headwaters, potential for dangerous deadfall in the creek, and other available opportunities for similar creek boating experiences in other areas, it is not likely that boating use on Santeetlah Creek will grow beyond the current intermittent, low level of use.

Hunting opportunities consist primarily of wild boar, turkey, and bear hunting within the creek corridor. Although this activity does occur to some degree, it is primarily a generational family experience that does not attract high volumes of casual hunters from outside the Southern Appalachian region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

The geologic features of Santeetlah Creek are common to other Southern Appalachian streams. The number and magnitude of waterfalls/cascades on Santeetlah Creek are not unique when compared to similar streams within the Southern Appalachians. Other rivers such as the Chattooga River provide unique geology in the shape of the river channel which affects the stream flow as well as cascading waterfalls and bedrock chutes that are not present in Santeetlah Creek.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

Santeetlah Creek provides high quality habitat and refugia for many native species such as hellbenders, Smoky Dace, Tangerine, and Tuckasegee Darters due to its free-flowing character and high water quality. However, these species are not unique to Santeetlah Creek and are found within numerous other streams throughout the Southern Appalachian region including (i.e. Big Laurel Creek).

Santeetlah Creek has a breeding population of hellbenders and Junaluska salamanders. One species of conservation concern is unique in Santeetlah Creek. One of the best populations of Junaluska salamander within North Carolina occurs in Santeetlah Creek, and the species are found throughout the system.

Additionally, Santeetlah Creek provides high-quality and uniformly distributed habitat for hellbenders. Hellbender have been found to be present from the cove waters of the lake up to about the confluence with Wright Creek.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

Santeetlah Creek supports a wildlife community that is considered typical for riparian zones and mid- to high-elevation valleys in the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. However, the river corridor supports one federally listed/endangered species, Carolina Northern flying squirrel; two federally listed bats, Northern long-eared bat and Indiana bat; and one species of bat conservation concern, the Eastern small footed bat. The diversity of these four federally listed species result (including some vegetation/habitat) make the river corridor a unique combination of habitats.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Santeetlah Creek drainage contains high elevation seeps; smaller spray cliff communities, a moderate population of rock gnome lichen, a federally endangered species, and one of the most diverse bryophyte floras across the southern Appalachians. In addition to the federally listed species, ten species of conservation concern mosses and liverworts have been documented. Santeetlah Creek watershed, including John's and Whigg Branches, has the largest documented population of *Megaceros aenigmaticus*. The diversity of these bryophyte species result make the river corridor a unique combination of habitats.

Evaluation Step**NO****YES**☐**XX****H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

There are many prehistoric and historic sites within the corridor, some of which are very rare across the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. The density of sites with continuous use represents some of the highest in the region. Some sites have national and regional importance for interpreting history. Several sites are associated with important Cherokee who lived here and used this area. Some of the sites are associated with significant cultural practices. Traditional Cultural Properties of regional significance are located with the corridor. Areas within the corridor were used for ceremonial purposes and traditional use continues into the present.

Evaluation Step**NO****YES**

XX

☐I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO** **YES****II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS**☐ **XX**

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked “YES”; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

Fish (aquatics) ORV for Hellbenders and Junaluska salamanders populations and habitat;
 Wildlife ORV for Carolina Northern flying squirrel, Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, and Eastern small footed bat populations and habitat;
 Vegetation ORV for *Megaceros aenigmaticus* population and habitat and several bryophyte floras, mosses, liverworts habitat; and
 Historical/Cultural ORVs Traditional Cultural properties as well as many prehistoric and historic sites.

The eligible river segment is the entire reach on Forest Service property in North Carolina (Big Junction and Santeetlah quads) – 12.5 miles.

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

XX Scenic

☐ Recreational

Rationale:

The river corridor is largely primitive and undeveloped; however, there is evidence of human activity including past management and inconspicuous roads.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

SOUTH TOE RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Celo, Montreat, and Old Fort quads; including Left and Right Prongs on FS property in Montreat quad

From: FS property line with Blue Ridge Parkway (Montreat quad)

To: FS property line south of Laurel Branch (Celo quad)

Evaluated By: Appalachian Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO YES

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ XX

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

The South Toe River flows through multi-jurisdictional ownership primarily federal government and private property. The river exits national forest to the north bordering a highly developed resort housing community and golf course. There is a developed forest system road that is open year round and provides access to the Blue Ridge Parkway, private property, and other developed forest roads that are managed seasonally. A scenic value would include the seasonal variation in vegetation with the high elevation Spruce Fir forest and motorized access to vistas. The landscape and surrounding vegetation, water, and scenic features in the South Toe River corridor are similar to the other areas except in the higher elevation headwaters.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The river corridor offers a wide array of recreation opportunities including sightseeing, interpretation, dispersed, and developed camping for individuals or groups, photography, and hiking on more than 25 miles of developed trails reaching high elevations like Mt. Mitchell (highest peak in the eastern United States), Green Knob fire tower (historic fire tower), premier fishing in native trout waters with accessible pier, and small and big game hunting. The area contains a highly developed camp ground and a group campground as well as over 25 miles of multi-use trails. Water activities include wading, tubing and kayaking during high water events. In addition, two other waterfalls are in close proximity and Set Rock and Roaring Fork Falls. There are two developed camp grounds that are managed under a concessionaire permit for eight months of the year and seven dispersed recreation sites that border the South Toe River.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

Public input: The river contains habitat for southern brook trout, Appalachian elktoe mussel, wavy-rayed lampshell mussel, eastern hellbender, blotchside logperch, olive darter, northern pygmy salamander.

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. There are Southern brook trout in the headwaters; however, not the best population. Hellbenders are present, but is not the best population.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

Public input: Habitat along the corridor provides for magnolia warbler; northern pygmy salamander; northern long-eared bat, and river otters.

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Public input: The river and its corridor support rare wildflowers, old growth. The river is also home to *Virginia spirea*.

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. Additionally, the *Virginia spirea* population identified by public comments is not on FS property.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

Conclusion:

Recreation ORV.

The eligible river segment is from the bridge at Black Mountain Campground upstream to the confluence of Left Prong South Toe River and Right Prong South Toe River (5.96 stream miles).

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

☐ Scenic

XX Recreational

Rationale:

The eligible river segment contains a parallel road as well as a bridge crossings. Additionally, the segment contains development near the river including a parking lots, restrooms, a developed camping areas, and picnic areas.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

THOMPSON RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Cashiers and Reid quads

From: FS property line near State Route 281

To: FS property line near Mountains to Sea Trail

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

The main section analyzed has eight waterfalls including Thompson High Falls. The nearby tributaries and main part of Thompson River are dramatic and visually spectacular. Recent land acquisitions have increased the amount of Forest Service ownership.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary recreational opportunities associated with the river include hiking, fishing, and non-motorized boating (rafting and kayaking). The Thompson River is accessed by walking on a Forest Service road. The road fords the river and provides hikers with access to the river and falls for sight-seeing and fishing. The Thompson is recognized as a high quality Brown trout fishing stream.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

Scenery and Recreation ORVs.

Thompson River – 4.37 miles in 4 segments:

1. Headwaters to Forest Service/Private line classified as Scenic due to proximity to Camp Buck/development
2. Forest Service/Private line west of Hwy 281 to Forest Service /Private line east of 281 classified as Recreation due to proximity to 281
3. Forest Service/Private line to Forest Service/Private FS/Private Line classified as Scenic due to closed FS road which runs adjacent and through river
4. Forest Service/Private line to South Carolina State line classified as Scenic due to fragmentation and Foothills Trail intersection

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

XX Scenic

XX Recreational

Rationale:

Thompson River – 4.37 miles in 4 segments:

5. Headwaters to Forest Service/Private line classified as Scenic due to proximity to Camp Buck/development
6. Forest Service/Private line west of Hwy 281 to Forest Service /Private line east of 281 classified as Recreation due to proximity to 281
7. Forest Service/Private line to Forest Service/Private FS/Private Line classified as Scenic due to closed FS road which runs adjacent and through river
8. Forest Service/Private line to South Carolina State line classified as Scenic due to fragmentation and Foothills Trail intersection

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

TUCKASEGEE RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Big Ridge and Lake Toxaway quads

The river has been divided into two sections for evaluation: (1 – Upper Section): from the confluence of Greenland and Panthertown Creeks to the dam on Tanasee Lake. This section runs through some private land; and (2 – Lower Section) from the dam at Tanasee Lake to the confluence of Wolf Creek at the top of Bear Lake. This section runs through some Duke property at the Wolf Creek confluence.

Upper Section:

From/To: The upper section starts at the confluence of Greenland and Panthertown Creeks to the Dam on Tanasee Lake. (Big Ridge quad)

Lower Section:

From/To: The lower section starts at the Dam at Tanasee Lake to the confluence of Wolf Creek at the top of Bear Lake. After the Tuckasegee River leaves Forest Service property and Panthertown Valley, the river travels in and out of private land, back onto Forest Service property through one Duke Power station (Tanasee Creek Lake). The next section runs from the Tanasee Dam, through the Bonas Defeat area and the confluence of Wolf Creek Lake before entering Bear Creek Lake. (Lake Toxaway quad);

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step**NO** **YES****I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS****A. Free – Flowing**☐**XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Upper section:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Lower section:

The scenery is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province and is not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor is it considered a destination location. Additionally, higher quality scenery can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Linville River, Nantahala River and associated Nantahala Gorge, and Whitewater River.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Upper section:

Upper East Fork of the Tuckasegee (upstream of Tanasee Dam Reservoir) flows through and from Panthertown Valley. Dangerous conditions exist at the top of any waterfall. It is recommended to stay away from the top of waterfalls.

Lower section:

Lower section runs in and out of private limiting the recreational access. The opportunities are similar to the area of comparison and do not exhibit outstandingly remarkable values.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>XX</u>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

Upper section:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Lower section:

The section from the Dam at Tanasee Lake to the Wolf Creek confluence flows through Bonas Defeat which does contain unique geological rock features within the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

Conclusion:

Geology ORV from the Forest Service property line after the dam at Tanasee Lake to the Forest Service property line near the confluence of Wolf Creek (0.90 miles).

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

XX Scenic

☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Scenic classification due to some evidence of human activity.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

WEST FORK OF PIGEON RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Sam Knob and Waynesville quads

From: Headwaters

To: FS property line near Sunburst Campground

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Ten scenic waterfalls and the “Garden of the Gods” qualifies this river as outstanding in terms of scenic value. Additionally, the river is bounded by both the Shining Rock Wilderness and Middle Prong Wilderness which provides scenic views from the river.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

This river does support a wide range of recreational opportunities. The Forest Heritage Scenic Byway (Hwy 215) provides easy access and dramatic views of the river. Several waterfalls can be accessed. Paddlers enjoy Class IV to V high water adventures featuring the scenic “Garden of the Gods”. Most of the area is hatchery supported for fishing and the area is recognized for one of the best Yellow Drake hatches. A popular swimming hole is located near Sunburst Campground and both developed and primitive camping experiences are found nearby. The river is not well known, but has the potential to become a featured destination.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area contains one of the best Rock Gnome lichen (endangered) populations within the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

Conclusion:

Scenery, Recreation, and Vegetation ORVs from intersection of Queen Creek (Forest Service property line) to confluence with Bubbling Spring Branch

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

☐ Scenic

XX Recreational

Rationale:

West Fork Pigeon River – 6.93 miles

Entire reach from intersection of Queen Creek (Forest Service property line) to confluence with Bubbling Spring Branch classified as Recreation due to the proximity to Hwy 215.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

WHITEWATER RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: The Upper section on FS runs for 1.5 miles from just above the confluence of Silver Run Creek down to just above the confluence of Happy Hollow Creek. The private ownership in the middle was not reviewed. The lower section runs through FS ownership for 3.5 miles from the USFS boundary above the confluence of Democrat Creek down river to the NC/SC border. (Cashiers quad)

From: Headwaters on private land

To: NC/SC border with the exception of private lands between the upper section and the lower section. Whitewater River is not a designated or eligible river in South Carolina.

Evaluated By: Nantahala and Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step**NO** **YES****I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS****A. Free – Flowing**☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Upper segment: The upper section of the river on FS is roughly 1.5 miles, running from just above the confluence of Silver run creek down to just above the confluence of Happy Hollow Creek. This section runs along S.R. 107. The Upper section of river flows through National Forest Land in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modification of the waterway.

Lower segment: The lower section of the river on FS runs roughly 3.5 river miles from the USFS boundary above the confluence of Democrat Creek down river to the South Carolina state line. The lower section of the river flows in a natural condition through the Forest. This section has one major road crossing (Bridge) on S.R. 281; no culvert and the bridge has concrete pillars which do not affect river flow.

Evaluation Step**NO** **YES****B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Upper segment: The upper section of the river does not contain Outstanding Remarkable Scenic Values. The upper section is characterized with the same elements and features as any other Appalachian stream or stream on the Nantahala and Pisgah Ranger Districts. The visual scenery is also affected by the road edge and guard rail funning along the streams edge. There are no major geographic features are in this area.

NO
XX**YES**

Lower segment: The lower section of the river does contain unique features that are not found anywhere else in the Southern Appalachians, or in the Eastern United States. The highest waterfalls east of the Mississippi River are located in this section of the Whitewater River. The Whitewater Falls recreation area brings in 35,000 visitors each year to view these falls. This river corridor is in its natural state with no visible development except for the nearby recreation area. A platform was constructed in the 1990s to accommodate the large number of waterfall viewing visitors. The steep side slopes in the gorge provide a visually appealing stair-step experience along the Foothills Trail to the base of Whitewater Falls.

NO
XX**YES**

Evaluation Step**NO** **YES**C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Upper segment: The upper section of Whitewater River has values that attract visitors and the upper section contains Silver Run Falls. However, Silver Run, while in close proximity to the road, the waterfall is very similar to other scenic and accessible falls, such as Glen Falls, Secret Falls, and Turtleback Falls and many others on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs and within the region of comparison.

NO
XX**YES**

Lower segment: The lower section has the Whitewater Falls Recreation Area which draws people from across the U.S. The Foothills Trail is located along about 1/3 of the lower section where many visitors view the waterway. There is a spanned trail bridge along the Foothills trail path, crossing the river at the bottom of the Waterfall. The Foothills trail accesses the river corridor from N.C. as well as the S.C. section. Hiking, hunting, photography, fishing, camping, etc. take place throughout the river corridor.

NO
XX**YES**

Evaluation Step**NO** **YES****D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

Upper segment: The geology of the upper section is very common to most of our Southern Appalachian Streams and the streams on the Nantahala and Pisgah Ranger districts and in the region of comparison. Thick rhododendron and mountain laurel cover the banks of this section with gradual fall in elevation. The river is often slow moving and difficult to see through the vegetation.

NO **YES**
XX

Lower segment: The geology of the lower section does have a rapid change in elevation when the river passes below S.R. 281 and plummets downward ending in Lake Jocassee. Upper Whitewater Falls, located in North Carolina and Lower Whitewater Falls, located in South Carolina, both showcase these features. The Upper Whitewater Falls is the highest waterfall east of the Rocky Mountains, plunging 411 feet. Steep walls and rock formations are readily visible from both the trail and the developed recreation area and are unique to the region due to the size and scale.

NO **YES**
XX

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

Upper and lower segments:

Whitewater River provides high quality habitat and refugia for many native species due to its free-flowing character and high water quality. The area does support Chauga crayfish and green salamander populations, which are species of conservation concern; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. Additionally, these species are fairly widespread across the Whitewater, Chattooga, Horsepasture, and Toxoway River drainages. There are no other aquatic species or habitats unique to the Whitewater River.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

Upper and lower segments:

Whitewater River supports a wildlife community that is considered typical for riparian zones and mid-elevation valleys in the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. Portions of the floodplain and surrounding uplands have been surveyed and evaluated for effects to wildlife resources for recent projects in the watershed.

The Whitewater River area is not known to support any federally- or state-listed wildlife species. The area does support the eastern small-footed bat, which is species of conservation concern; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO** **YES****G. Vegetative /Ecological Values**

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Upper segment: The upper section supports communities that is considered typical for riparian zones and mid-elevation valleys in the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province.

NO **YES**XX ☐

Lower segment: The lower section contains the largest spray cliff community in the eastern United States. It also contains one of the most diverse bryophyte species assemblages of any spray cliff within the southern Appalachian region as well as one of the most diverse bryophyte flora across the southern Appalachians, in comparison to the Chattooga River and Santeetlah Creek. Additionally, within the corridor there is a population of rock gnome lichen, a federally listed species, 17 species of conservation concern mosses and liverworts, and 10 vascular plant species of conservation concern. This diversity of these species in the river corridor make it unique.

NO **YES**☐ XX

Evaluation Step**NO** **YES****H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

Upper and lower segments:

There is nothing outstandingly remarkable about the historical/cultural resources. Davidson River and Wilson Creek Rivers have many more resources with historic and cultural significance. There is one prehistoric site and one historic site known within the corridor. Neither of which is of national or regional importance for interpreting history. There are no known features with significant historic importance and the known prehistoric site is not unique. There are no known traditional or ceremonial practices associated with this corridor.

NO **YES**
XX ☐**NO** **YES**
XX ☐

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS**

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	XX

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

Scenery, Recreation, Geology, and Vegetation ORVs on the lower section of the river from the Forest Service property line above the confluence of Democrat Creek to the North Carolina/South Carolina state line (3.5 miles).

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

XX Scenic

☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Scenic classification due to evidence of human activity including a major road crossing.

Other Rivers Reviewed for Potential Eligibility:

The following section of this document contains the summary evaluation forms for rivers reviewed in detail and determined to have no Outstandingly Remarkable Values at the Region of Comparison and therefore, not eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Forest Planning Interdisciplinary Team has identified the region of comparison for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests as the Southern Appalachian Region.

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

BEECH CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Hightower Bald quad; (Southern Nantahala Wilderness)

From: Headwaters

To: North Carolina/Georgia border

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary river-related recreational opportunities associated with Beech Creek include hiking and hunting. None of these opportunities are considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports salamander species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

BIG CHOGA CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Topton quad

From: Headwaters

To: Nantahala Lake

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- I. Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

There is one river crossing for the Trail of Tears; however, no specific feature for crossing and no current use.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

BIG CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Dunsmore Mountain quad

From: Henderson –Transylvania County line near Blue Ridge Parkway

To: Confluence with Mills River

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Hiking and mountain biking are the primary recreational uses of this creek. References to fishing or boating opportunities can be categorized as average or below average in the area and has been described as “difficult to fish” and “not a destination” from angling perspective. Additionally, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The area contains a historic splash dam; however, it is not unique or rare at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

BIG EAST FORK PIGEON RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Sam Knob quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with Middle Prong of Pigeon River

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Minimal boating and fishing use. Large majority of use is occurring upstream in Wilderness and near developed trails. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Public input on recreation is referencing the currently eligible East Fork of the Pigeon River and not Big East Fork.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
 - *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
 - *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

BRITTON CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Andrews and Robbinsville quads

From: Headwaters

To: Forest service boundary on the Andrews quad

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports Eastern Hellbenders; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The area contains the Trail of Tears; however, no specific feature for crossing and no current use.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

BUCK CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Rainbow Springs quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with Buck Creek

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports salamander species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports wildlife species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

CATAWBA RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Black Mountain and Moffitt Hill quads

From: FS property line (Black Mountain quad)

To: FS property line (Moffitt Hill quad)

Evaluated By: Grandfather Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

XX ☐

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

The Catawba historic complex/dam remnants impound the flow. However, the segment after the complex is free-flowing therefore; does not prevent the further review of this river.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, much of the river is not on FS property and their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The Catawba historic complex/dam remnants impound the flow of the river and therefore would be outside any eligible river segments. Additionally, there are no other unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

CHAMBERS CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Unaka quad

From: Forest service property boundary Unaka quad

To: Confluence with Hiawassee River

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)

- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)

- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The area contains the Trail of Tears; however, there is no specific feature for crossing and no current use.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

CHEOAH RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Fontana Dam and Tapoco quads

From: Cheoah Dam

To: Santeetlah Lake

Evaluated By: Cheoah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

XX ☐

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

The river does not exist or flow in a natural condition. The reach is a result of major diversion work and the river flow patterns are dependent on major schedule dam releases.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**
☐ ☐

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

E. Fish

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
 - *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
 - *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

NO
☐

YES
☐

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

Not free-flowing.

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

☐ Scenic

☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

CHESTNUT BRANCH

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Black Mountain and Moffitt Hill quads

From: Forest service property boundary

To: Confluence with Catawba River

Evaluated By: Grandfather Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked “YES”; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

COURTHOUSE CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Sam Knob quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence of North Fork of French Broad River

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

There are two waterfalls on Courthouse Creek, with the most notable being Courthouse Falls. It is a significant local waterfall that gets a large amount of visitation. However, it is not considered unique, rare, or exemplary at the region of comparison. Wilson Creek and Linville River have larger gorges. Comparable scenery and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Courthouse Creek has some non-motorized boating use. Also, some small pocket-water fishing opportunities occur and developed trails and roads access the creek. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they have the potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and are not considered a destination location for these types of activities. Additionally, higher quality recreation experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

DOCKERY CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – McDaniel Bald quad

From: Headwaters

To: FS property

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Scenery along Dockery Creek is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary river-related recreational opportunities associated with Dockery Creek is recreational fishing. None of these opportunities are considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Dockery Creek has little potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and is not considered a destination location for these types of activities.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports native trout; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked “YES”; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

EAST FORK OVERFLOW CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Highlands quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with Overflow Creek

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

ELK RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Elk River; entire reach on NFs in North Carolina; approximately 1 mile; Elk Park quad

From: Forest Service ownership boundary

To: Tennessee border (Elk River from the TN/NC state line to Watauga Reservoir is currently eligible in the Cherokee National Forest)

Evaluated By: Appalachian Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO YES

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Big Falls (aka Elk Falls) and the adjacent river channel are scenic within the local area but they do not offer a variety of scenic features nor are they remarkable in comparison to other areas in the forest such as Yellowstone Falls/Lower Falls, Rainbow Falls, Linville Falls, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Recreation opportunities at Big Falls (aka Elk Falls) include sightseeing, wading, boating fishing, and hunting. The pool at the bottom of the falls contains large hydraulic and is an attraction for local swimmers. The falls are used by extreme boaters; however, the collective recreation setting is not outstandingly remarkable at the region of comparison. Higher quality experiences can be found on other rivers on the forest such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

Geological features in the river corridor are representative within the region of comparison and are not rare or unique. Big Falls (aka Elk Falls) and the adjacent river channel are not remarkable in comparison to other areas in the forest such as Yellowstone Falls/Lower Falls, Rainbow Falls, Linville Falls, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

Biologic diversity is less than average and there is nothing outstandingly remarkable about the aquatic fauna of the Elk River. There are no federally or state listed aquatic species in the segment and there no outstanding habitat for native aquatic species. Higher quality examples can be found on other rivers on the forest such as the Lower French Broad River and the Nolichucky River.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**F. Wildlife**

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

There is one federally listed species in the area – Northern Long-Eared Bat, but the presence is not outstanding at the region of comparison. There is nothing outstandingly remarkable about the native wildlife populations or habitat on the Elk River at the region of comparison. Higher quality examples can be found on other rivers on the forest such as Big Laurel Creek and Lower French Broad River.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**G. Vegetative /Ecological Values**

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Although 80 to 100 year old examples of trees are present they do not represent high quality examples of acidic cove, eastern hemlock, and mesic oak forests. Other rivers in the area including Horsepasture River and Nolichucky River have larger size trees; contain greater plant diversity; and greater structural diversity and heterogeneity. There are no federal or state listed plant species in the segment and there is no outstanding remarkable habitat for rare plant species. In addition, there are no known sensitive or forest concern plant species documented in the river corridor.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS**

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

FROLICTOWN CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Big Ridge quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence of Panthertown Creek

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Recreation activities include camping, hiking, rock climbing, swimming, and fishing. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Additionally, Frolictown Creek has very little potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and is not considered a destination location for these types of activities.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

GIBBY BRANCH

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Topton quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with Big Choga Creek

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The area contains the Trail of Tears; however, no specific feature for crossing and no current use.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

GRAGG PRONG

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Grandfather Mountain quad

From: FS property line south of Blue Ridge Parkway

To: Confluence with Lost Cove Creek

Evaluated By: Grandfather Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Gragg Prong is a beautiful rocky mountain stream surrounded by cove hardwood forests and the stream highlights a 100-ft rock slide waterfall through a narrow gorge. However, these features are not unique or rare on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison and comparable scenery and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The Mountains-to-Sea trail follows Gragg Prong for a portion of the stream, and the area offers a primitive backcountry experience with camping and good swimming holes. Additionally, the stream is wild trout waters and provides a good backcountry fishing experience. The primary recreational opportunities associated with the river include hiking and fishing; however, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context. Non-motorized boating is associated with high water events and is for highly skilled paddlers; normal water flows do not support paddling. Comparable hiking, fishing, and paddling experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

The area contains geologic/waterfalls; however, these features are not unique or rare on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison and comparable geological features can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

NO **YES**
 XX ☐

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

GREASY COVE PRONG

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Shining Rock quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with East Fork Pigeon River

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

GREENLAND CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Big Ridge quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence of Panthertown Creek

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Recreation activities include camping, hiking, non-motorized boating, rock climbing, swimming, and fishing. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Additionally, Greenland Creek has very little potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and is not considered a destination location for these types of activities.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

HARPER CREEK/NORTH HARPER CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Chestnut Mountain and Grandfather Mountain quads; excluding Harper Creek west of Kawanas inholding on Chestnut Mountain quad

From/To: Headwaters of North Harper Creek to Confluence of Harper Creek on to Confluence with Wilson Creek

Evaluated By: Grandfather Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO YES

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ XX

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

The stream highlights Harper Creek and South Harper Creek Falls. Lower sections of the Harper Creek Trail (260/440) follow the edge of Harper Creeks gorge, providing views of the creek and gorge as openings in the forest canopy and topography allow. While Harper Creek provides beautiful scenery, Wilson Creek and Linville River have larger gorges. Likewise, waterfalls along Harper Creek are impressive; however, waterfalls are common throughout the region of comparison and comparable scenery and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Harper Creek is most popular for water-play, fishing, hiking, backpacking, and non-motorized boating. The Harper Creek and Mountains-to-Sea Trail follow Harper Creek. This along with a network of trails throughout the Harper Creek area, provides a host of loop potentials highlighting waterfalls in the area. Harper Creek provides wild trout fishing opportunities that are comparable with the surrounding creeks. During periods of high water, Harper Creek does see some use from extreme kayakers, as do a handful of surrounding streams.

The primary recreational opportunities associated with the river include fishing and non-motorized boating (rafting and kayaking); however, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context. Additionally, comparable hiking, fishing, and paddling experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

The geology, including waterfalls, steep walls, and rock formations of Harper Creek, is common throughout the Harper Creek and Lost Cove Wilderness Study Areas. By comparison, the geology of Linville River and Wilson Creek is stunning where the unique geology gives form to the rocky creeks, waterfalls, and gorges.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**G. Vegetative /Ecological Values**

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

One rare community, a spray cliff, is present at Harper Creek Falls in the lower portion of the drainage. This spray cliff has no associated rare species.

There are no rare plant species present in the drainage associated with any of the mesic habitats or streams.

High quality examples of acidic cove, rich cove, mesic oak, dry-mesic oak, and dry oak forests are present in the drainage. However these do not represent the best examples of these types such as located within Linville Gorge, Blackrock Mountain, Terrapin Mountain, Chimney Rock, and Standing Indian.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS**

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

HIWASSEE RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Murphy and Hayesville quads

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO YES

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

XX ☐

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

The Hiwassee River is impounded.

Evaluation Step**NO****YES**☐☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**
☐ ☐

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

NO
☐

YES
☐

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**
☐ ☐

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
☐**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

NO
☐

YES
☐

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

Not free-flowing

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

JARRETT CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Topton and Wayah Bald quads

From: Headwaters (Wayah Bald quad)

To: Nantahala Lake

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The area contains the Trail of Tears and Rutherford Trace; however, there is no specific feature for crossing and no current use.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

JOHNS RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Collettsville and Globe quads

From: Headwaters (Globe quad)

To: Confluence with Reids Creek and Sally Creek (Collettsville quad)

The river travels in and out of private land, with few sections on FS property.

Evaluated By: Grandfather Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. Additionally, the rare mussel population is downstream of most Forest Service ownership.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

LITTLE BUCK CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Rainbow Springs quad;

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with Buck Creek

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports wildlife species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

LITTLE EAST FORK PIGEON RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Sam Knob, Shining Rock and Waynesville quads

From: Headwaters

To: Forest Service property boundary near scout camp

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Forest Service trail #107 parallels this creek for a substantial portion of its reach. Hiking would be considered light to moderate for the Shining Rock Wilderness. It is not considered a fly casting destination, and it is not frequently paddled. Also, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they have the potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events. The region is not considered a destination location for these types of activities. Additionally, higher quality recreation experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

LITTLE SANTEETLAH CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Santeetlah and Tapoco quads

From: Headwaters (Tapoco quad)

To: Confluence with Santeetlah Lake

Evaluated By: Cheoah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Scenery along Little Santeetlah Creek and throughout the Little Santeetlah Creek watershed is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. Little Santeetlah Creek supports a riparian forest vegetative community, including dense thickets of *Rhododendron maximum*, which limits the field of view for persons engaged in recreation along the creek. The primary access to the creek is provided by the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Loop Trail. The trail has limited fields of view due to dense vegetation along both sides of the trail and contains few open access points that provide a visitor with expansive vistas.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary river-related recreational opportunities associated with Little Santeetlah Creek include recreational fishing, hiking and hunting. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Additionally, Little Santeetlah Creek has very little potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and is not considered a destination location for these types of activities. Additionally, hunting opportunities consist primarily of wild boar, turkey, and bear hunting within the creek corridor; however, it is primarily a generational family experience that does not attract high volumes of casual hunters from outside the Southern Appalachian region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The seepage salamander is an upland seeps species and does not owe its existence to the river. The area supports Hellbender populations, and there is a Southern Brook trout population in the headwaters; however, the presence of these species in this area is not outstanding within the region of comparison. Also, these species are not the best populations within the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports the Indiana bat (endangered) and one species of conservation concern, the Eastern Small-footed bat. However, the presence of these species here is not unique or outstanding within the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

LONG CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Robbinsville quad

From: Headwaters

To: Forest service boundary

Evaluated By: Cheoah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The area contains the Trail of Tears; however, there is no specific feature for crossing and no current use.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

LOOKING GLASS CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Shining Rock quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with Davidson River

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO YES

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ XX

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Looking Glass Falls and Sliding Rock are both considered iconic attractions for the Pisgah Ranger District; however, with the exception of these two features, the large majority of the creek can be characterized as unexceptional and/or routine in character. A sewage settling pond from Sliding Rock, excessive road noise, and numerous road construction support structures limit recreational appeal.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Looking Glass Creek features two iconic recreational destinations. Between 500,000 and 1 million visitors visit Looking Glass Falls, and Sliding Rock attracts between 200,000 and 400,000 visitors each year. Summer overflow crowds are common and visitation can be considered national, and frequently international. Large recreational developments with constructed access to the creek facilitates the high recreational use. The Forest Heritage Scenic Byway parallels the creek. Fishing and general water play is common. Paddling at Sliding Rock is prohibited by Supervisor Order.

With the exception of the two marquee features, the large majority of the creek can be characterized as unexceptional and/or routine in character. A sewage settling pond from Sliding Rock, excessive road noise, and numerous road construction support structures limit recreational appeal. In conclusion, while the two isolated features are noteworthy, the creek in its entirety or in segments does not meet the ORV threshold.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. The hellbender population in proximity to the area is located on a small section and is within the corridor of the currently eligible Davidson River Wild and Scenic river.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. Additionally, the Rock gnome lichen is associated with rock outcrops not with the river itself.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>XX</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

LOST COVE CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Grandfather Mountain and Newland quads

From: Headwaters (Newland quad)

To: Confluence of Gragg Prong (Grandfather Mountain quad)

Evaluated By: Grandfather Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Lost Cove Creek is a beautiful rocky mountain stream surrounded by cove hardwood forests. The stream highlights Hunt Fish Falls, however, the scenery is not unique or rare at the region of comparison and is similar to other locations in the Wilson Creek Watershed, including Upper Wilson Creek, Linville Gorge, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Lost Cove Creek area provides a back country experience but is only open for fly fishing. Lost Cove Creek provides swimming and hiking trails and campsites are available along the stream. Boating is limited to high water events only. Lost Cove Creek offers waterfall viewing and swimming for hikers at Hunt Fish Falls. However, the recreation is not unique or rare at the region of comparison and is similar to experiences on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. Additionally, the Heller's blazing star is on a rock outcrop and not associated with the river.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

MIDDLE CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC.

From: Headwaters

To: FS property line

Evaluated By: Appalachian Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Middle Creek flows in a natural condition with one armored trail crossing.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Middle Creek is managed in the Black Mountain Research Natural Area. However, the scenery is not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor does it consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

There is a gated developed forest system road that serves as a trail head parking for the Buncombe Horse Trail that traverses the eastern section of Middle Creek. Other river related activities such as the use of small water craft, rafts, and kayaks are limited due to access, the river size and continuous high water flow. Recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, sightseeing, wildlife viewing and photography are available with seasonal variations. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**G. Vegetative /Ecological Values**

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

MIDDLE PRONG OF PIGEON RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Sam Knob quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with West Fork of Pigeon River

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Short segment of river that does not have outstanding scenic qualities and is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. The scenery is not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor is it considered a destination location. Wilson Creek and Linville River have larger gorges and comparable scenery and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary recreational opportunities associated with the river include fishing and non-motorized boating (rafting and kayaking). However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Additionally, higher quality paddling experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

NORTH FORK FRENCH BROAD RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Lake Toxaway, Rosman, and Sam Knob quads

From: Headwaters (Sam Knob quad)

To: FS property line near State Route 215 (Rosman quad)

The headwaters of the river begin on FS property; however, the river travels in and out of private land, back onto Forest Service (Rosman quad).

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Scenery along the river is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. The river is located near the Forest Heritage Scenic Byway; however, the water is rarely visible. Wilson Creek and Linville River have larger gorges and comparable scenery and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary recreational opportunities associated with the river include fishing and non-motorized boating (rafting and kayaking). Recreational fishing does occur on the river, but there are many other mountain creeks and rivers that offer similar recreational fishing opportunities. Additionally, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison.

While the river is popular with high water paddlers, the upper Nantahala River provides a comparable floating experience and is also a source for regional and national competitive events. Additionally, the Nantahala River has a highly developed outfitter guide program and the supporting facilities that enable a more comprehensive recreation experience. Challenging whitewater runs can also be found across other creeks and rivers throughout the region of comparison, including the Tellico and Oconee Rivers in Tennessee and Wilsons Creek and the Chattooga River in North Carolina.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports a population of pink shell azalea; however, they are not associated with the river.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

PANTHERTOWN CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Big Ridge quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence of Greenland Creek and Tuckasegee River

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

The scenery is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province and is not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor is it considered a destination location. Additionally, higher quality scenery can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Linville River, Nantahala River and associated Nantahala Gorge, and Whitewater River.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary recreational opportunities associated with the river include fishing and some kayaking. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Additionally, higher quality paddling experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Wilson Creek.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

The geology is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province and is not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor is it considered a destination location. Additionally, higher quality granite domes can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Linville River, Nantahala River and associated Nantahala Gorge, and Whitewater River.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. Additionally, the area supports Southern brook trout species; however, they are not unique or rare in this area and the population and habitat are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports several animal species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

Panthertown Bog is is one of the largest and oldest bogs in the southern Appalachians; however, it lacks both animal and plant species diversity in comparison to the other Southern Appalachian bogs. Additionally, the Panthertown Bog does not have any federally listed species or regionally rare species, such as present at Dulany Bog, The Pink Beds, Eller Seep, or McClure's Bog.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

ROARING CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Carvers Gap quad;

From: Headwaters

To: FS property line

Evaluated By: Appalachian Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. Additionally, the Golden-winged warbler does not owe its existence to the river.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports Gray's lily; however, the Gray's lily not associated with river.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The river corridor contains the Over Mountain Victory Trail; however, the significant historical features in this area are not river-dependent nor do they owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

ROCK CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Celo and Mount Mitchell quads

From: Headwaters (Mount Mitchell quad)

To: FS property line north of Maple Bald Creek (Celo quad)

Evaluated By: Appalachian Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

The scenery on the southeastern section of Rock Creek consist of mature and immature timber, rhododendron, and other shrub species typical of the area. There is a gated developed forest road system that parallels Rock Creek and is used for administrative purposes limiting negative intrusions. The area has been historically managed for wildlife and early successional habitat thus creating seasonal variations in the diverse young and older vegetation. The northwestern section of Rock Creek is private property with multiple private dwellings located on or near the creek. The private dwellings are primarily vacant during the winter months and occupied spring through fall season with moderate intrusions. There are many other mountain creeks and rivers that offer similar, if not better, scenic opportunities.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Rock Creek offers some recreational opportunities but not that of high quality that would attract visitors throughout or beyond the region specific to river related activities. Other river related activities such as the use of small water craft, rafts, and kayaks are limited due to the river size and continuous high water flow. Recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, sightseeing and photography are available with seasonal variations. Wildlife viewing may be limited due to foot travel on developed forest system road and private property bordering the northwestern portion of Rock Creek. Forest product collection such as Galax is very popular in the area and has resulted in random user created trails. There are many other mountain creeks and rivers that offer similar, if not better, recreational opportunities.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

SASSAFRAS CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Marble and Santeetlah quads

From: Headwaters (Marble quad)

To: Confluence with Snowbird Creek (Santeetlah quad)

Evaluated By: Cheoah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports Southern Brook Trout; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**G. Vegetative /Ecological Values**

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

SHINING CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Dunsmore Mountain quad

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with East Fork of Pigeon River

Evaluated By: Pisgah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists s with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Shining Creek is a wilderness stream with nice scenery; however, the scenery along the river is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province and it is not outstanding at the region of comparison. The scenery is not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor is it considered a destination location. Wilson Creek and Linville River have larger gorges. Additionally, comparable scenery and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary river-related recreational opportunity associated with the river include hiking. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor does it consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Higher quality recreation experiences can be found on other rivers such as Linville River, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater River.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

Shining Creek contains no known associated cultural resources. It is within a larger cultural and traditional landscape; however, there are no locatable unique, rare, or significant prehistoric or historic resources in this corridor.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

SLICKROCK CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Tapoco and Whiteoak Flats quads;

From: Headwaters (Whiteoak Flats quad)

To: Confluence with Cheoah River (Tapoco quad)

Evaluated By: Cheoah Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Scenery along Slickrock Creek and throughout the Slickrock Creek watershed is considered typical for the Southern Appalachian Physiographic Province. Slickrock Creek supports a riparian forest vegetative community, including dense thickets of *Rhododendron maximum*. This forest type limits the field of view for persons engaged in recreation along the creek. Primary access to the creek is provided by the Slickrock Creek backcountry hiking trail which offers limited fields of view due to vegetation along both sides of the trail. The trail has few access points that provide visitors with expansive vistas.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary river-related recreational opportunities associated with Slickrock Creek include recreational fishing, camping, hiking, and hunting. However, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context, nor do they consistently attract visitors from throughout or beyond the Southern Appalachian region of comparison. Additionally, Slickrock Creek has very little potential to provide recreational settings for national or regional usage or competitive events, and is not considered a destination location for these types of activities.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

SPRING CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Hot Springs quad

From: Headwaters

To: FS property line north of Squirrel Branch

Evaluated By: Appalachian Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**B. Scenery**

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

The Spring Creek area contains a steep wall gorge on the east and west side with limited access and intrusions to the river corridor. State Highway 209 is a scenic byway that borders Spring Creek to the west with two road side vistas to view Spring Creek. However, these features are not unique or rare on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. Comparable scenery and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Spring Creek offers some recreational opportunities, but not of high quality that would attract visitors throughout or beyond the region specific to river-related activities. There are segments of Spring Creek that support class III and IV rapids, especially during high water events, but not consistent enough throughout the river corridor for a high quality experience. Other recreational opportunities found in the area include fishing, hunting, and wildlife observation. However, these features are not unique or rare on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison and comparable recreation can be found on other rivers such as Linville River, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater River.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**
XX

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison. The Hellbender species is found in the lower French Broad, which is a currently eligible Wild and Scenic river.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

TALLULAH RIVER

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Hightower Bald and Rainbow Springs quads

From: Headwaters (Rainbow Springs quad)

To: NC/Georgia border

Evaluated By: Tusquitee Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports these species; however, their population do not owe their existence to the river and are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**G. Vegetative /Ecological Values**

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports Rock gnome lichen; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

TANASEE CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Lake Toxaway and Sam Knob quads

From: Headwaters (Sam Knob quad)

To: FS property line (Lake Toxaway quad)

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Scenery representation of the area is common in most of the rivers in the region of comparison and on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs. Cullasaja Falls, Linville Falls, Whiteoak Creek Falls, and Whitewater Falls are more scenic waterfalls with in the area.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**C. Recreation**

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

The primary recreational opportunities associated with the river include camping, hiking, fishing, and non-motorized boating; however, these opportunities are not considered unique, rare, or exemplary in a regional or national context. Comparable recreational experiences can be found on other rivers such as Chattooga River, Davidson River, Linville River, Nantahala River, Nolichucky River, and Ocoee River.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**G. Vegetative /Ecological Values**

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

WATERFALL CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Craggy Pinnacle and Montreat quads

From: Headwaters

To: Confluence with Carter Creek

Evaluated By: Appalachian Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

Waterfall Creek offers hikers views of Douglas Falls as well as other cascading drops. However, these features are not unique or rare on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison and comparable, if not of higher quality, scenery and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

Waterfall Creek offers hikers views of Douglas Falls as well as other cascading drops. The creek is a popular waterfall viewing destination for visitors to the immensely popular Craggy Gardens area on the Blue Ridge Parkway. However, these features are not unique or rare on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison and comparable, if not of higher quality, recreation and waterfalls can be found on other rivers such as Linville Gorge, Wilson Creek, and Whitewater Falls.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**D. Geology**

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

The area supports rare species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

NO **YES**
 XX ☐

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

WAYAH CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. –Wayah Bald quad

From: Border of Forest Service ownership on Wayah Bald quad (intermixed with private ownership)

To: Confluence with Jarrett Creek

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations*: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat*: Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural**

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

The area contains the Trail of Tears and Rutherford Trace; however, there is no specific feature for crossing and no current use.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

I. Other Similar Values

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked "YES"; then the river area is eligible for designation.

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

- ☐ Wild
- ☐ Scenic
- ☐ Recreational

Rationale:

Evaluation Form for Wild & Scenic River Eligibility Analysis

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

Nantahala and Pisgah NFs

WEST FORK OVERFLOW CREEK

Additional Instructions: It is critical to describe in detail the outstandingly remarkable values and to explain how they are unique, rare, or exemplary features significant at a comparative regional or national scale. For each of the potential ORVs, include a description of the region of comparison that was used.

River Segment Reviewed: Entire reach on Forest Service property in NC. – Highlands and Scaly Mountain quads

From: Headwaters (Scaly Mountain quad)

To: Confluence of Overflow creek (Highlands quad)

Evaluated By: Nantahala Ranger District and interdisciplinary team specialists with input from the public.

Date: May 02, 2017

Evaluation Step

NO **YES**

I. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

A. Free – Flowing

☐ **XX**

- Is the river free-flowing?

(According to Section 16(b) of the Wild and Scenic River Act, free-flowing is defined as, “Existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works or other minor structures does not automatically disqualify the segment for designation. A river segment below or between impoundments may also be considered.”)

Consider:

- Does the river exist or flow in a natural condition?
- Where there are improvements or modifications (such as culverts, fords, fish traps, weirs, fish barriers, j-hooks, rock vanes, or other instream structures), do these structures affect the free-flowing nature of the water?
- If there is a segment of the river that is not free-flowing, should other segments be considered?

Discussion:

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Scenery

- Do the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions? (When analyzing scenic values, additional factors—such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed—may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐C. Recreation

- Are recreational opportunities high quality that attract or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region? (River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Geology

- Does the river or river corridor contain one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon unique or rare within the region of comparison? (The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage or development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features--erosional, volcanic, glacial or other geologic structures.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

E. Fish

- Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of Fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Is the river a nationally or regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species? (Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangers, or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison? (Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern. Rare and unique habitats in the corridor should also be considered.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

F. Wildlife

- Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic populations, habitat or a combination of these conditions.
- *Populations:* Does the river or area within the river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species? (Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide a unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern? Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Discussion:

The area supports species; however, their population abundance are not exemplary on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs or at the region of comparison.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Vegetative /Ecological Values

- Vegetative and ecological values may be judged on the relative merits of either populations or communities, or a combination of these conditions.)
- *Populations:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species? (Of importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. Diversity and number of species area also important.)
- *Habitat:* Does the river or river corridor contain nationally or regionally important plant communities? (Communities are exceptionally high quality, unusual or critical communities such as old-growth.)

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
XX	<input type="checkbox"/>

H. Heritage Resources – Historic and Cultural

- Does the river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans? Or, do sites have national or regional importance for interpreting history?

Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor area contain features or sites associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region? (A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older).

Pre-Historic: Does the river or area within the river corridor contain sites of prehistoric human use or occupation with unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological values such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living? Or were areas within the river corridor used for unique traditional ceremonial purposes? Does the area associated with the river represent the origins of cultures or conflict of cultures?

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

Evaluation Step**NO**
XX**YES**
☐**I. Other Similar Values**

- Are other values of the river or the area within the river corridor outstandingly remarkable, containing nationally or regionally important conditions? (Consider values such as (but not limited to) botany, hydrology, paleontology, scientific resources and heritage values).

Discussion:

No unique or outstandingly remarkable river-related values related to this resource were identified during internal and public review.

II. ANALYSIS OF ELIGIBILITY COMPONENTS

If the river segment is free-flowing and one or more outstandingly remarkable value items are checked “YES”; then the river area is eligible for designation.

Conclusion:

III. CLASSIFICATION

If river is eligible, what is the classification? Refer to Table 2 in the 1982 Wild and Scenic River Interagency Guidelines for the criteria used to determine classification.

☐ Wild

☐ Scenic

☐ Recreational

Rationale: